

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-13 are considered in the Office action.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Shimakawa et al U.S. Patent No. 5,802,260 ("Shimakawa").

Claims 2-4, 7-11 and 13 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reply

Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 7 without prejudice, and has amended claims 1, 3-6, and 8-11. In particular: (1) claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of previously presented claims 1 and 2; (2) claims 3-5 have been amended to depend from claim 1; (3) claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of previously presented claims 6 and 7; and (4) claims 8-11 have been amended to depend from claim 6.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-6 and 8-13 are allowable, and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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